

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of gathering data further comprises collecting the data at a location where the existing process is being performed.
3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of collecting the data at the location where the existing process is being performed further comprises interviewing persons associated with the existing process.
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of analyzing differences further comprises quantifying a severity associated with each potential adverse impact.
- 6—21. (canceled)
22. (currently amended) A method for systematically capturing knowledge from

an existing process and applying the knowledge to assist in performing a failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) on a related new process, the method comprising:

forming a FMEA team for assigning responsibilities and determining at least one specific existing process appropriate for use in capturing relevant knowledge;

gathering data from the at least one existing process relating to actual failures, their causes and known solutions for correcting the actual failures;

analyzing differences between the at least one existing process and the related new process to identify potential adverse impacts on safety, quality, delivery, cost or morale related to the new process;

performing a draft FMEA on the new process using learning captured from the gathered data and analyzed differences between the existing and new processes;

performing a process specific FMEA on the new process focusing on high priority issues having greatest impact on safety, quality, delivery, cost or morale identified using the draft FMEA;

conducting a FMEA team group validation of the process specific FMEA to detect and eliminate problems between steps of the new process; and

conducting a management review of a validated process specific FMEA and, upon management approval, forwarding the validated process specific FMEA to a facility where the new process will be conducted for use in taking preventive action to prevent potential failures in an order determined by results of the process specific FMEA.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22 further comprising returning the validated process specific FMEA to the FMEA team for revision and revalidation whenever management approval is not obtained.